Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a target plant to confer stress tolerance comprising inoculating said plant or a part of said plant with a culture of *Curvularia* isolate 1A15.1, deposit number NRRL 30910, wherein said stress tolerance is chosen from the group consisting of thermal tolerance and drought tolerance.
- 2. Canceled
- 3. Canceled
- 4. (Original) A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant is a monocot or said plant part is from a monocot.
- 5. (Original) A method of treating a plant according to claim 4 wherein said monocot is a grass.
- 6. (Original) A method of treating a plant according to claim 4 wherein said monocot is a wheat.
- 7. (Original) A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant is a dicot or said plant part is from a dicot.
- 8. (Original) A method of treating a plant according to claim 7 wherein said dicot is a eudicot.
- 9. (Original) A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant part is a seed.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a plant according to claim 1 wherein said plant

Attorney Docket No. MONT-059/01US Application No. 10/602,546 Page 3

part is a seedling.

- 11. Canceled
- 12. Canceled